

**City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee
May 5, 2005 Meeting - Minutes Taken by Adam Mitchell**

Members Attending: Rob Gogan, Harvard; Judith Nathans; Cathy McCormick; Adam Mitchell, Save That Stuff; Paul Schlaver, Cambridge Consumers Council

Guests Attending: Randi Mail, Recycling Director

Updated Bottle Bill (UBB)

Members agreed that the meeting with Phil Sego from the Sierra Club and Rep. Alice Wolf was informative. Cathy summarized the meeting – Phil talked about the potential benefits to the UBB to include non-carbonated beverages. The Committee discussed the nuts-and-bolts of implementing the UBB, particularly exemptions for small mom and pop stores. Randi questioned why so much energy is focused on a small portion of the waste stream when there is so much room for improvement for paper waste, a much larger portion of the waste stream. She thought more energy should be spent to reestablish the Clean Environment Fund, which could be used to address this.

Randi asked the Committee to vote on the legislation endorsed by Rep. Wolf to the UBB. There were two abstentions, and three no's. Members then brainstormed pros and cons to the legislation, which Cathy volunteered to summarize and submit to be included with Randi's response to the Council order regarding public education of the UBB benefits.

City Recycling Contracts

F.W. Russell won the curbside recycling contract. Save That Stuff was awarded the business contact and the collection of cardboard dumpsters/roll-off hauling.

The City renegotiated the processing contract with FCR-Boston (formerly KTI). The contract is a supply agreement since the City is earning revenue. Therefore, the Living Wage Ordinance is not applicable.

The processing fee for commingles will be \$30/ton. When the 3-month rolling average commodity value (plastics, metals and glass) is above \$65/ton, FCR will pay 50% of the net revenues to the City. The City has never before earned commingles revenue.

Processing costs for paper/cardboard will remain the same at \$36/ton. Market price is the average of the New England industry price range for #8 news as published in the 1st monthly issue of the Official Board Markets (the yellow sheet). The formula is *(Positive) Rebate or (Negative) Fee = (Market Price – Processing Cost)*.

There was some discussion on what was the source of the commodity valuations.

Kelly Dunn, New Recycling Program Manager!

Kelly Dunn began May 23rd filling the position left open by Rick Leandro's departure. She's a Cambridge resident, speaks Spanish, and has experience in the field of sustainability. In her own words, *"As a resident of Cambridge, I am deeply committed to the recycling program, and look forward to working with all of you to reach our common goals of maintaining and improving recycling in our schools and large apartment buildings. I am thrilled to be a part of the recycling team, and can't wait to get started!"*

Rob and Paul participated in the interview process and reported they were very pleased since Kelly was one of the top prospects. Cathy asked where her energy would be focused. Randi said there would be some seasonal variation depending on the school calendar, but her core area will be large apartment buildings. Kelly will also work on implementing the composting program at the schools with assistance from the DEP. Members requested that Kelly attend Committee meetings.

Letter to Commissioner Peterson

Cathy asked about the letter the Committee sent to Commissioner Peterson that summarized our concerns on meeting the City's waste reduction and recycling goals. Randi said she'd bring monthly tonnage reports to future meetings and solicit Committee feedback on outreach activities and participation strategies.